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<b>UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL</b>  <i>(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))</i>	Attorney Docket No.	ART81US
	First Inventor	KIA SILVERBROOK
	Title	METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FAULT TOLERANT DATA STORAGE ON PHOTOGRAPHS
	Express Mail Label No.	EK333430434US

<b>APPLICATION ELEMENTS</b> See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.	<b>ADDRESS TO:</b> Assistant Commissioner for Patents Box Patent Application Washington, DC 20231
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17) <i>(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)</i> 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification [Total Pages 19] <i>(preferred arrangement set forth below)</i> - Descriptive title of the invention - Cross Reference to Related Applications - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D - Reference to sequence listing, a table, or a computer program listing appendix - Background of the Invention - Brief Summary of the Invention - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed) - Detailed Description - Claim(s) - Abstract of the Disclosure 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 7] 5. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 3] a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newly executed (original or copy) Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63 (d)) <i>(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)</i> i. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)</b> Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76	7. <input type="checkbox"/> CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program <i>(Appendix)</i> 8. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission <i>(if applicable, all necessary)</i> a. <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Readable Form (CRF) b. Specification Sequence Listing on: i. <input type="checkbox"/> CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or ii. <input type="checkbox"/> paper c. <input type="checkbox"/> Statements verifying identity of above copies
<b>ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS</b>	
9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s)) 10. <input type="checkbox"/> 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney <i>(when there is an assignee)</i> 11. <input type="checkbox"/> English Translation Document <i>(if applicable)</i> 12. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of IDS Citations 13. <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Amendment 14. <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) <i>(Should be specifically itemized)</i> 15. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <i>(if foreign priority is claimed)</i> 16. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: .....	

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☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No. \_\_\_\_\_

Prior application information Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ Group / Art Unit \_\_\_\_\_

For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

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Signature		Date	October 18, 2000

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**TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT** (\$) 475**Complete if Known**

Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	Kia Silverbrook
Examiner Name	
Group Art Unit	
Attorney Docket No.	ART81US

**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

- 1.
- ☐
- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to

Deposit Account Number	
Deposit Account Name	

☐ Charge Any Additional Fee Required Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17☐ Applicant claims small entity status See 37 CFR 1.27

- 2.
- ☒
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☒ Check ☐ Credit card ☐ Money Order ☐ Other**FEE CALCULATION****1. BASIC FILING FEE**

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
101 710	201 355	Utility filing fee	355
106 320	206 160	Design filing fee	
107 490	207 245	Plant filing fee	
108 710	208 355	Reissue filing fee	
114 150	214 75	Provisional filing fee	

**SUBTOTAL (1)** (\$) 355**2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES**

Total Claims	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
9	-20** =	9	0
1	-3** =	40	0
Multiple Dependent			

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
103 18	203 9	Claims in excess of 20	
102 80	202 40	Independent claims in excess of 3	
104 270	204 135	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid	
109 80	209 40	** Reissue independent claims over original patent	
110 18	210 9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent	

**SUBTOTAL (2)** (\$) 0

\*\*or number previously paid, if greater, For Reissues, see above

**FEE CALCULATION (continued)****3. ADDITIONAL FEES**

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105 130	205 65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
127 50	227 25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139 130	139 130	Non-English specification	
147 2,520	147 2,520	For filing a request for <i>ex parte</i> reexamination	
112 920*	112 920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113 1,840*	113 1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115 110	215 55	Extension for reply within first month	
116 390	216 195	Extension for reply within second month	
117 890	217 445	Extension for reply within third month	
118 1,390	218 695	Extension for reply within fourth month	
128 1,890	228 945	Extension for reply within fifth month	
119 310	219 155	Notice of Appeal	
120 310	220 155	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121 270	221 135	Request for oral hearing	
138 1,510	138 1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140 110	240 55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
141 1,240	241 620	Petition to revive - unintentional	
142 1,240	242 620	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143 440	243 220	Design issue fee	
144 600	244 300	Plant issue fee	
122 130	122 130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
123 50	123 50	Petitions related to provisional applications	
126 240	126 240	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581 40	581 40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	120
146 710	246 355	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
149 710	249 355	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
179 710	279 355	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
169 900	169 900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

Other fee (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

\* Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

**SUBTOTAL (3)** (\$) 120**SUBMITTED BY**

Name (Print/Type)	Kia Silverbrook
Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>

Registration No (Attorney/Agent)	
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**Complete (if applicable)**

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Date	October 18, 2000

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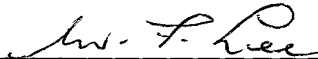
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Submitted herewith Utility Patent Application Transmittal and enclosures for an invention entitled "METHOD AND METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FAULT TOLERANT DATA STORAGE ON PHOTOGRAPHS" (Docket No. ART81US).

Expresspost Label No. EK333430434US

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**TITLE OF THE INVENTION**

"Method And Apparatus For Fault Tolerant Data Storage On Photographs"

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a data processing method and apparatus and, in particular, discloses a data encoding method and apparatus for storing data on photographs using an ink jet printing system using an infra-red ink wherein the data is original image data taken from a camera system which has been transformed by an image processing program, the data also including a copy of the program.

**CO-PENDING APPLICATIONS**

Various methods, systems and apparatus relating to the present invention are disclosed in the following co-pending applications filed by the applicant or assignee of the present invention simultaneously with the present application:

<b>US Patent Application Serial Number (which would be filed in at a later date, when the number is received)</b>	<b>Docket No.</b>
09/_____	ART80US
09/_____	ART82US
09/_____	ART83US
09/_____	ART84US
09/_____	ART 85US

The disclosures of these co-pending applications are incorporated herein by reference.

Various methods, systems and apparatus relating to the present invention are disclosed in the following co-pending application filed by the applicant or assignee of the present invention on July 10, 1998:

USSN 09/113,070 (Docket No. ART02US)

USSN 09/112,785 (Docket No. ART29US)

The disclosures of this co-pending application are incorporated herein by reference.

Various methods, systems and apparatus relating to the present invention are disclosed

in the following co-pending applications filed by the applicant or assignee of the present invention on June 30, 2000:

USSN 09/608,308 (Docket No. CPE01US),

USSN 09/608,779 (Docket No. CPE02US)

5 USSN 09/607,987 (Docket No. CPE03US)

USSN 09/608,776 (Docket No. CPE04US)

USSN 09/\_\_\_\_\_ (Docket No. CPE05US)

USSN 09/607,991 (Docket No. CPE06US)

The disclosures of these co-pending applications is incorporated herein by reference.

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### **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

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As the applicant has previously noted in pending applications USSN 09/113,070 (Docket No. ART02US) and USSN 09/112,785 (Docket No. ART29US) there is a general need for a print media scanning system that allows for high volumes of computer data to be stored on a simple print media, such as a card while simultaneously tolerating a high degree of corruption when read by a scanning device. For example, the form of distribution can suffer a number of data corruption errors when the surface is scanned by a scanning device. The errors can include:

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1. Dead pixel errors which are a result of reading the surface of the card with a linear CCD having a faulty pixel reader for a line thereby producing the same value for all points on the line.

2. Preferably, the system adopted can tolerate errors wherein text is written by the owner of the card on the surface. Such errors are ideally tolerated by any scanning system scanning the card.

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3. Various data errors on the surface of the card may arise and any scuffs or blotches should be tolerated by any system determining the information stored on the surface of the card.

4. A certain degree of "play" exists in the insertion of the card into a card reader. This play can comprise a degree of rotation of the card when read by a card reader.

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5. Further, the card reader is assumed to be driven past a linear image sensor such as a CCD by means of an electric motor. The electric motor may experience a degree of fluctuation which will result in fluctuations in the rate of transmission of the data

across the surface of the CCD. These motor fluctuation errors should also be tolerated by the data encoding method on the surface of the card.

6. The scanner of the surface of the card may experience various device fluctuations such that the intensity of individual pixels may vary. Reader intensity variations should also be accounted for in any system or method implemented in the data contained on the surface of the card.

Ideally, any scanning system should be able to maintain its accuracy in the presence of errors due to the above factors.

In applications USSN 09/113,070 (Docket No. ART02US) and USSN 09/112,785 (Docket No. ART29), the applicant disclosed a method and apparatus for printing data in an encoded fault tolerant form on the back of a photograph preferably using black ink on a white background. The data represented the photograph in a digital image file format and/or data comprising a computer programme script which could be run to recreate the image or to apply some effect to the image. A programming language called a VARK script was invented for this purpose which was designed to be portable and device independent.

### **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention seeks to provide an alternative to that method of encoding and printing data by recording the digital data corresponding to a version of an image produced by a given image processing program along with a copy of the program by printing that information in an encoded fault tolerant digital form over or with the image itself using infra-red ink, the image and the data being recorded on a print media using an ink jet printing system as formerly disclosed by the applicant.

It is an object of the present invention to provide for a method of printing digital data on a photograph wherein the data is image data from a camera system which has been transformed by an image processing program including the steps of:

- a) receiving image data corresponding to an image;
- b) transforming said image data with an image processing program the steps of which are contained on a card;
- c) encoding said transformed image data and said program into a fault tolerant digital form;

- d) printing out said fault tolerant digital form of said transformed image data along with a fault tolerant encoded form of said image processing program using an ink jet printing process with an invisible ink on a surface of a print media while simultaneously printing out said transformed image data as a photographic image representing said image data in a visual, human readable form on the same surface of said print media.

Preferably, said encoding step includes compressing said image data and processing it using a Reed-Solomon algorithm.

The invisible ink may be an infra-red absorbing ink with negligible absorption in the visible spectrum

It is a further object of the invention to provide apparatus for printing in infra-red ink encoded fault tolerant digital data on a photograph said apparatus including:

- a) a camera system for imaging an image including means for outputting said image in a digital format; said camera system further including means for inputting an image processing program;
- b) means for processing said digital format of said image into a transformed version of said image in accordance with program steps of said image processing program;
- c) means for converting said digital format of said image and said image processing program into a fault tolerant encoded digital form;
- d) means for printing on a surface said transformed version of said image and said fault tolerant encoded digital form of said image and said image processing program using an ink jet printing process, said fault tolerant encoded digital form being printed using an infra-red ink.

Preferably, the means for printing employs a pagewidth printhead using an ink jet structure, for example, as disclosed in applicant's USSN 09/608,308 (Docket No. CPE01US), USSN 09/608,779 (Docket No. CPE02US), USSN 09/607,987 (Docket No. CPE03US), USSN 09/608,776 (Docket No. CPE04US), USSN 09/\_\_\_\_\_ (Docket No. CPE05US), and USSN 09/607,991 (Docket No. CPE06US) with a print roll feeding print media therethrough, for example as disclosed in applicant's Artcam applications, USSN 09/113,070 (Docket No. ART02US) and USSN 09/112,785 (Docket No. ART29).

According to a preferred form of the invention the information is printed out on a photograph which may be a standard size of approximately 102x152mm (4"x 6") compared to the prior art data encoded card which has a format of 86mm x 55mm (approximately the

size of a credit card). The increased size of the recording media allows nearly four times as much data to be recorded on the photograph compared to the previous format while using a similar or identical data encoding technique.

5      **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Notwithstanding any other forms which may fall within the scope of the present invention, preferred forms of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 illustrates the data surface of a card or photograph;

10      Fig. 2 illustrates schematically the layout of a single data block;

Fig. 3 illustrates a single data block;

Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 illustrate magnified views of portions of the data block of Fig. 3;

Fig. 6 illustrates a single target structure;

Fig. 7 illustrates the target structure of a data block;

15      Fig. 8 illustrates the positional relationship of targets relative to border clocking regions of a data region;

Fig. 9 illustrates the orientation columns of a datablock;

Fig. 10 illustrates the array of dots of a datablock;

Fig. 11 illustrates schematically the structure of data for Reed-Solomon encoding;

20      Fig. 12 illustrates in hexadecimal notation the structure of control block data before Reed-Solomon encoding;

Fig. 13 illustrates the Reed-Solomon encoding process; and

Fig. 14 illustrates the layout of encoded data within a datablock.

25      **DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT**

The present invention preferably uses an ink jet printing system having at least four ink jet print nozzles per dot in a pagewidth printhead. The four inks would be cyan, magenta, and yellow for printing a color image and an infra-red (IR) ink for printing data in an encoded fault tolerant form along with the color image. One such ink jet printhead which can print using  
30      four inks is disclosed in the applicant's co-pending applications USSN 09/608,779 (Docket No. CPE02US), USSN 09/607,987 (Docket No. CPE03US), USSN 09/608,776 (Docket No. CPE04US), USSN 09/\_\_\_\_\_ (Docket No. CPE05US), and USSN 09/607,991 (Docket No.



CPE06US).

Infra-red inks suitable for use with the current invention are disclosed in the applicant's co-pending applications, Australian provisional patent applications PQ9412 (Docket No. INK01) and PQ9376 (Docket No. INK02) both filed on August 14, 2000 and applicant's applications PQ9509 (Docket No. INK03) filed on August 18, 2000, and PQ9571 (Docket No. INK03A), and PQ9561 (Docket No. INK04) filed on August 21, 2000.

Techniques that can be used to encode the information for printing an infra-red ink are disclosed applicant's co-pending application USSN 09/113,070 (Docket No. ART02US) and USSN 09/112,785 (Docket No. ART29), the description of which is incorporated herein by reference. These techniques were described as Artcard, alternative Artcard or Dotcard formats. In these applications, the data was printed using a black ink on a white background on the back of a card of size 85mmx55mm in an active data area of 80mmx50mm. In this way 967Kbytes of data was fault tolerantly encoded as 1.89 Mbytes of data using 15,876,000 printed dots.

#### Encoded data Format

Of course, while other encoded data formats are possible, there will now be described one such encoded data format using the "alternative Artcard" format as above referred to) with a number of preferable features.

#### Encoded data Overview

The Encoded data can be used to recover the image over which it is written or to provide a digital format thereof for manipulation in applications, for example transmission over a digital telecommunication network or image processing in a computer.

Encoded data technology can also be independent of the printing resolution. The notion of storing data as dots on print media simply means that if it is possible to put more dots in the same space (by increasing resolution), then those dots can represent more data. The preferred embodiment assumes utilization of 1600 dpi printing on a 102 mm x 152 mm (4" x 6") size photograph as the sample photograph, but it is simple to determine alternative equivalent layouts and data sizes for other photograph sizes and/or other print resolutions. For example, in the applicant's ink jet printing camera system a panoramic print can also be produced which is twice the length of the standard size photograph allowing twice the data to be recorded enhancing redundancy of the image data. Regardless of the print resolution, the

reading technique remains the same. After all decoding and other overhead has been taken into account, the encoded data format is capable of storing 3 to 4 Megabyte of data for a 4"x6" print size at print resolutions up to 1600 dpi. More encoded data can be stored at print resolutions greater than 1600 dpi.

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#### Format of encoded data

The structure of data on the photograph is therefore specifically designed to aid the recovery of data. This section describes the format of the data on a photograph. This format was previously described in USSN 09/113,070 (Docket No. ART02US) and USSN 09/112,785 (Docket No. ART29).

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#### Dots

The dots printed on the photograph are in infra-red ink with or over a color image. Consequently a "data dot" is physically different from a "non-data dot". When the photograph is illuminated by an infra-red source having complementary spectral properties to the absorption characteristics of the IR ink the data appears as a monochrome display of "black" on "white" dots. The black dots correspond to dots where the IR ink is and has absorbed the IR illumination and "white" dots correspond to areas of the color image over which no IR ink has been printed and reflecting the IR illumination substantially unattenuated or only partially attenuated. Hereinafter the terms black and white as just defined will be used when referring to the IR ink dots recording data.

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In describing this embodiment, the term dot refers to a physical printed dot (of IR ink) on a photograph. When an encoded data reader scans encoded data, the dots must be sampled at at least double the printed resolution to satisfy Nyquist's Theorem. The term pixel refers to a sample value from an encoded data reader device. For example, when 1600 dpi dots are scanned at 4800 dpi there are 3 pixels in each dimension of a dot, or 9 pixels per dot. The sampling process will be further explained hereinafter.

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Turning to Fig. 1, there is shown the data surface 101 illustrating a sample of encoded data. Each photograph having encoded data consists of an "active" region 102 surrounded by a border region 103. The border 103 contains no data information, but can be used by an encoded data reader to calibrate signal levels. The active region is an array of data blocks e.g. 104, with each data block separated from the next by a gap of 8 image dots e.g. 106. Depending on the print resolution, the number of data blocks on a photograph will vary. On a

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1600 dpi printed photograph of 4" x 6", the array can be 15 x 14 data blocks in an area of approximately 97mm. x 147mm. for 2.5mm margins. Each data block 104 has dimensions of 627 x 394 dots with an inter-block gap 106 of 8 image dots.

## 5 Data blocks

Turning now to Fig. 2, there is shown a single data block 107. The active region of encoded data consists of an array of identically structured data blocks 107. Each of the data blocks has the following structure: a data region 108 surrounded by clock-marks 109, borders 110, and targets 111. The data region holds the encoded data proper, while the clock-marks, borders and targets are present specifically to help locate the data region and ensure accurate recovery of data from within the region.

Each data block 107 has dimensions of 627 x 394 dots. Of this, the central area of 595 x 384 dots is the data region 108. The surrounding dots are used to hold the clock-marks, borders, and targets.

## 15 Borders and Clockmarks

Fig. 3 illustrates a data block with Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 illustrating magnified edge portions thereof. As illustrated in Fig. 4 and Fig. 5, there are two 5 dot high border and clockmark regions 170, 177 in each data block: one above and one below the data region. For example, the top 5 dot high region consists of an outer black dot border line 112 (which stretches the length of the data block), a white dot separator line 113 (to ensure the border line is independent), and a 3 dot high set of clock marks 114. The clock marks alternate between a white and black row, starting with a black clock mark at the 8th column from either end of the data block. There is no separation between clockmark dots and dots in the data region.

The clock marks are symmetric in that if the encoded data is inserted rotated 180 degrees, the same relative border/clockmark regions will be encountered. The border 112, 113 is intended for use by an encoded data reader to keep vertical tracking as data is read from the data region. The clockmarks 114 are intended to keep horizontal tracking as data is read from the data region. The separation between the border and clockmarks by a white line of dots is desirable as a result of blurring occurring during reading. The border thus becomes a black line with white on either side, making for a good frequency response on reading. The clockmarks alternating between white and black have a similar result, except in the horizontal rather than the vertical dimension. Any encoded data reader must locate the clockmarks and border if it

intends to use them for tracking. The next section deals with targets, which are designed to point the way to the clockmarks, border and data.

#### Targets in the Target region

As shown in Fig. 7, there are two 15-dot wide target regions 116, 117 in each data block: one to the left and one to the right of the data region. The target regions are separated from the data region by a single column of dots used for orientation. The purpose of the Target Regions 116, 117 is to point the way to the clockmarks, border and data regions. Each Target Region contains 6 targets e.g. 118 that are designed to be easy to find by an encoded data reader. Turning now to Fig. 6 there is shown the structure of a single target 120. Each target 120 is a 15 x 15 dot black square with a center structure 121 and a run-length encoded target number 122. The center structure 121 is a simple white cross, and the target number component 122 is simply two columns of white dots, each being 2 dots long for each part of the target number. Thus target number 1's target id 122 is 2 dots long, target number 2's target id 122 is 4 dots wide etc.

As shown in Fig. 7, the targets are arranged so that they are rotation invariant with regards to card insertion. This means that the left targets and right targets are the same, except rotated 180 degrees. In the left Target Region 116, the targets are arranged such that targets 1 to 6 are located top to bottom respectively. In the right Target Region, the targets are arranged so that target numbers 1 to 6 are located bottom to top. The target number id is always in the half closest to the data region. The magnified view portions of Fig. 7 reveals clearly the how the right targets are simply the same as the left targets, except rotated 180 degrees.

As shown in Fig. 8, the targets 124, 125 are specifically placed within the Target Region with centers 55 dots apart. In addition, there is a distance of 55 dots from the center of target 1 (124) to the first clockmark dot 126 in the upper clockmark region, and a distance of 55 dots from the center of the target to the first clockmark dot in the lower clockmark region (not shown). The first black clockmark in both regions begins directly in line with the target center (the 8th dot position is the center of the 15 dot-wide target).

The simplified schematic illustrations of Fig. 8 illustrates the distances between target centers as well as the distance from Target 1 (124) to the first dot of the first black clockmark (126) in the upper border/clockmark region. Since there is a distance of 55 dots to the clockmarks from both the upper and lower targets, and both sides of the encoded data are symmetrical (rotated through 180 degrees), the card can be read left-to-right or right-to-left.

Regardless of reading direction, the orientation does need to be determined in order to extract the data from the data region.

#### Orientation columns

As illustrated in Fig. 9, there are two 1 dot wide Orientation Columns 127, 128 in each data block: one directly to the left and one directly to the right of the data region. The Orientation Columns are present to give orientation information to an encoded data reader: On the left side of the data region (to the right of the Left Targets) is a single column of white dots 127. On the right side of the data region (to the left of the Right Targets) is a single column of black dots 128. Since the targets are rotation invariant, these two columns of dots allow an encoded data reader to determine the orientation of the photograph – has the photograph been inserted the right way, or back to front.

From the encoded data reader's point of view, assuming no degradation to the dots, there are two possibilities:

- If the column of dots to the left of the data region is white, and the column to the right of the data region is black, then the reader will know that the photograph has been inserted the same way as it was written.
- If the column of dots to the left of the data region is black, and the column to the right of the data region is white, then the reader will know that the photograph has been inserted backwards, and the data region is appropriately rotated. The reader must take appropriate action to correctly recover the information from the photograph.

#### Data Region

As shown in Fig. 10, the data region of a data block consists of 595 columns of 384 dots each, for a total of 228,480 dots. These dots must be interpreted and decoded to yield the original data. Each dot represents a single bit, so the 228,480 dots represent 228,480 bits, or 28,560 bytes. The interpretation of each dot can be as follows:

Black	1
White	0

The actual interpretation of the bits derived from the dots, however, requires understanding of the mapping from the original data to the dots in the data regions of the

photograph.

#### Mapping original data to data region dots

There will now be described the process of taking an original data file of maximum size 2,986,206 bytes and mapping it to the dots in the data regions of the 210 data blocks on a 1600 dpi photograph. An encoded data reader would reverse the process in order to extract the original data from the dots on a photograph. At first glance it seems trivial to map data onto dots: binary data is comprised of 1s and 0s, so it would be possible to simply write black and white dots onto the card. This scheme however, does not allow for the fact that ink can fade, parts of a card may be damaged with dirt, grime, or even scratches. Without error-detection encoding, there is no way to detect if the data retrieved from the card is correct. And without redundancy encoding, there is no way to correct the detected errors. The aim of the mapping process then, is to make the data recovery highly robust, and also give the encoded data reader the ability to know it read the data correctly.

There are four basic steps involved in mapping an original data file to data region dots:

- Compress the original data
- Redundancy encode the compressed data
- Shuffle the encoded data in a deterministic way to reduce the effect of localized encoded data damage
- Write out the shuffled, encoded data as dots to the data blocks on the photograph.

Each of these steps is examined in detail in the following sections.

#### Compress the Original Data

The data to be recorded on the photograph may comprise several blocks, e.g.

- 1) color image data
- 2) audio annotation data
- 3) image processing control script
- 4) position data (such as from a GPS receiver)
- 5) time and date
- 6) camera orientation
- 7) tracking data - such as ink cartridge information, software versions, camera identification, and so forth.

For a high quality image, the source image data may be 2000 x 3000 pixels, with 3 bytes per pixel. This results in 18 Mbytes of data, which is more than can be stored in infra-red dots on the photo. The image data can be compressed by a factor of around 10:1 with generally negligible reduction in image quality using an image compression technique.

5 Suitable image compression techniques include JPEG compression based on discrete cosine transforms and Huffman coding, wavelet compression as used in the JPEG2000 standard or fractal compression.

With 10:1 compression, the 18 Mbytes of a high quality image results in 1.8 Mbytes of compressed data.

10 The audio annotation data can also be compressed using, for example, MP3 compression.

The image processing control scrip will typically not consume more than 10 Kbytes of data, with the exception of images embedded in the script. These images should generally be compressed. A suitable image processing script language designed for photograph processing

15 is the 'Vark' language developed by the present applicant and disclosed in USSN 09/113,070 (Docket No. ART02US). The remaining data is small, and need not be compressed.

#### Redundancy encode using Reed-Solomon encoding

The mapping of data to encoded data dots relies heavily on the method of redundancy encoding employed. Reed-Solomon encoding is preferably chosen for its ability to deal with burst errors and effectively detect and correct errors using a minimum of redundancy. Reed Solomon encoding is adequately discussed in the standard texts such as Wicker, S., and Bhargava, V., 1994, Reed-Solomon Codes and their Applications, IEEE Press, Rorabaugh, C, 1996; Error Coding Cookbook, McGraw-Hill, Lyppens, H., 1997; Reed-Solomon Error

20 Correction, Dr. Dobb's Journal, January 1997 (Volume 22, Issue 1).

A variety of different parameters for Reed-Solomon encoding can be used, including different symbol sizes and different levels of redundancy. Preferably, the following encoding parameters are used:

\*  $m = 8$

\*  $t = 64$

30 Having  $m=8$  means that the symbol size is 8 bits (1 byte). It also means that each Reed-Solomon encoded block size  $n$  is 255 bytes ( $2^8 - 1$  symbols). In order to allow correction of up to  $t$  symbols,  $2t$  symbols in the final block size must be taken up with redundancy

symbols. Having  $t=64$  means that 64 bytes (symbols) can be corrected per block if they are in error. Each 255 byte block therefore has 128 ( $2 \times 64$ ) redundancy bytes, and the remaining 127 bytes ( $k=127$ ) are used to hold original data. Thus:

$$* \quad n = 255$$

5

$$* \quad k = 127$$

The practical result is that 127 bytes of original data are encoded to become a 255-byte block of Reed-Solomon encoded data. The encoded 255-byte blocks are stored on the photograph and later decoded back to the original 127 bytes again by the encoded data reader. The 384 dots in a single column of a data block's data region can hold 48 bytes ( $384/8$ ). 595 of these columns can hold 28,560 bytes. This amounts to 112 Reed-Solomon blocks (each block having 255 bytes). The 210 data blocks of a complete photograph can hold a total of 23,520 Reed-Solomon blocks (5,997,600 bytes, at 255 bytes per Reed-Solomon block). Two of the Reed-Solomon blocks are reserved for control information, but the remaining blocks are used to store data. Since each Reed-Solomon block holds 127 bytes of actual data, the total amount of data that can be stored on an photograph is 2,986,786 bytes ( $23,518 \times 127$ ). If the original data is less than this amount, the data can be encoded to fit an exact number of Reed-Solomon blocks, and then the encoded blocks can be replicated until all 23,518 blocks are used. Fig. 11 illustrates the overall form of encoding utilized.

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Each of the two Control blocks 132, 133 contain the same encoded information required for decoding the remaining 23,518 Reed-Solomon blocks:

20

The number of Reed-Solomon blocks in a full message (16 bits stored lo/hi), and

The number of data bytes in the last Reed-Solomon block of the message (8 bits).

These two numbers are repeated 32 times (consuming. 96 bytes) with the remaining 31 bytes reserved and set to 0. Each control block is then Reed-Solomon encoded, turning the 127 bytes of control information into 255 bytes of Reed-Solomon encoded data.

25

The Control Block is stored twice to give greater chance of it surviving. In addition, the repetition of the data within the Control Block has particular significance when using Reed-Solomon encoding. In an uncorrupted Reed-Solomon encoded block, the first 127 bytes of data are exactly the original data, and can be looked at in an attempt to recover the original message if the Control Block fails decoding (more than 64 symbols are corrupted). Thus, if a Control Block fails decoding, it is possible to examine sets of 3 bytes in an effort to determine the most likely values for the 2 decoding parameters. It is not guaranteed to be recoverable, but it has a better chance through redundancy. Say the last 159 bytes of the Control Block are

30



destroyed, and the first 96 bytes are perfectly ok. Looking at the first 96 bytes will show a repeating set of numbers. These numbers can be sensibly used to decode the remainder of the message in the remaining 23,518 Reed-Solomon blocks.

To store a 3-color image each color either "on" or "off" and size 4"x6" (102 mm x 152mm) at 1600 dpi resolution requires 210,400bits or 26,300 bytes of data. A program in Vark script may be approximately 10-15 Kbytes long. If we assume a program of size 13,568 bytes, this requires 39,868 Kbytes to be encoded to store the image data and the program data, according to the invention. The number of Reed-Solomon blocks required is 314. The first 313 Reed-Solomon blocks are completely utilized, consuming 39,751 bytes (313 x 127). The 314<sup>th</sup> block has only 117 bytes of data (with the remaining 10 bytes all 0s).

A hex representation of the 127 bytes in each Control Block data before being Reed-Solomon encoded would be as illustrated in Fig. 12.

#### Scramble the Encoded Data

Assuming all the encoded blocks have been stored contiguously in memory, a maximum 5,997,600 bytes of data can be stored on the photograph (2 Control Blocks and 23,518 information blocks, totaling 23,520 Reed-Solomon encoded blocks). Preferably, the data is not directly stored onto the photograph at this stage however, or all 255 bytes of one Reed-Solomon block will be physically together on the card. Any dirt, grime, or stain that causes physical damage to the card has the potential of damaging more than 64 bytes in a single Reed-Solomon block, which would make that block unrecoverable. If there are no duplicates of that Reed-Solomon block, then the entire photograph cannot be decoded.

The solution is to take advantage of the fact that there are a large number of bytes on the photograph, and that the photograph has a reasonable physical size. The data can therefore be scrambled to ensure that symbols from a single Reed-Solomon block are not in close proximity to one another. Of course pathological cases of photograph degradation can cause Reed-Solomon blocks to be unrecoverable, but on average, the scrambling of data makes the data much more robust. The scrambling scheme chosen is simple and is illustrated schematically in Fig 13. All the Byte 0s from each Reed-Solomon block are placed together 136, then all the Byte 1s etc. There will therefore be 23,520 byte 0's, then 23,520 Byte 1's etc. Each data block on the photograph can store 28,560 bytes. Consequently, there are approximately 4 bytes from each Reed-Solomon block in each of the data blocks on the photograph.

Under this scrambling scheme, complete damage to 16 entire data blocks on the photograph will result in 64 symbol errors per Reed-Solomon block. This means that if there is no other damage to the photograph, the entire data is completely recoverable, even if there is no data duplication.

5

Write the scrambled encoded data to the photograph

Once the original data has been Reed-Solomon encoded, duplicated, and scrambled, there are 5,997,600 bytes of data to be stored on the photograph. Each of the data blocks on the photograph stores 28,560 bytes.

10

The data is simply written out to the photograph data blocks so that the first data block contains the first 28,560 bytes of the scrambled data, the second data block contains the next 28,560 bytes etc.

15

As illustrated in Fig. 14, within a data block, the data is written out column-wise left to right. Thus the left-most column within a data block contains the first 48 bytes of the 28,560 bytes of scrambled data, and the last column contains the last 48 bytes of the 28,560 bytes of scrambled data. Within a column, bytes are written out top to bottom, one bit at a time, starting from bit 7 and finishing with bit 0. If the bit is set (1), a black dot (IR ink dot) is placed on the photograph, if the bit is clear (0), no dot is placed on the photograph.

20

For example, a set of 5,997,600 bytes of data can be created by scrambling 23,520 Reed-Solomon encoded blocks to be stored onto an photograph. The first 28,560 bytes of data are written to the first data block. The first 48 bytes of the first 28,560 bytes are written to the first column of the data block, the next 48 bytes to the next column and so on. Suppose the first two bytes of the 28,560 bytes are hex D3 5F. Those first two bytes will be stored in column 0 of the data block. Bit 7 of byte 0 will be stored first, then bit 6 and so on. Then Bit 7 of byte 1 will be stored through to bit 0 of byte 1. Since each "1" is stored as a black dot, and each "0" as a white dot, these two bytes will be represented on the photograph as the following set of dots:

25

- D3 (1101 0011) becomes: black, black, white, black, white, white, black, black
- 5F (0101 1111) becomes: white, black, white, black, black, black, black, black

30

The encoded image data is sent to an ink jet printer to drive the infra-red ink jet nozzles while the image data is used to drive the cyan, magenta, and yellow color nozzles while the print media is driven through the printhead of the printer as disclosed in applicant's co-pending applications USSN 09/113,070 (Docket No. ART02US) and USSN 09/112,785 (Docket No.

ART29).

The image taken by the camera system is now available as a photographic image with the data necessary to reproduce that image printed therewith. It is not necessary to separately locate the negative if another copy of the photograph is desired, the image can be reproduced notwithstanding damage thereto and the image is available in a digital format which can be scanned into a computer system as disclosed in applicant's co-pending applications USSN 09/113,070 (Docket No. ART02US) and USSN 09/112,785 (Docket No. ART29) for whatever purpose or transmitted over a telecommunications network.

Another type of format the so-called Artcard format is disclosed in USSN 09/113,070 (Docket No. ART02US) and USSN 09/112,785 (Docket No. ART29US) and may equally be used here in place of the "alternative Artcard" format as described above. In the Artcard format a continuous area of data is printed on the print media, in the present case, in infra-red ink on the photograph surrounded by margins printed as targets at the leading and trailing edges of the data area and as other indicia to specify borders and clockmarks along the top and bottom thereof to aid decoding of the data contained in the data area. The targets are used to confirm that the orientation of the card when read is not rotated more than 1° from the horizontal and to detect whether the card has been inserted front or back first. Otherwise the reading of the data would be unreliable.

The foregoing description has been limited to specific embodiments of this invention . It will be apparent, however, that variations and modifications may be made to the invention, with the attainment of some or all of the advantages of the invention. For example, it will be appreciated that the invention may be embodied in either hardware or software in a suitably programmed digital data processing system, both of which are readily accomplished by those of ordinary skill in the respective arts. Therefore, it is the object of the appended claims to cover all such variations and modifications as come within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

**WE CLAIM**

1. A method of printing digital data on a photograph wherein the data is image data from a camera system which has been transformed by an image processing program including the steps of:

- a) receiving image data corresponding to an image;
- b) loading an image processing program
- c) transforming said image data with said image processing program to produce transformed image data;
- e) encoding said transformed image data and said image processing program into a fault tolerant digital form;
- f) printing out said fault tolerant digital form of said transformed image data along with a fault tolerant encoded form of said image processing program using an ink jet printing process with an invisible ink on a surface of a print media while simultaneously printing out said transformed image data as a photographic image in a visual, human readable form on the same surface of said print media.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the invisible ink is an infra-red absorbing ink with little absorption in the visible spectrum.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein converting said data to said fault tolerant encoded form comprises forming a Reed-Solomon encoded version of said image.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said fault tolerant encoded form of said data includes applying a high frequency modulation signal to said fault tolerant encoded form such that said permanent record includes repeatable high frequency spectral components.

5. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein said high frequency modulation signal comprises a checkerboard two dimensional spatial signal.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said step of printing out utilizes a print roll means storing said print media and an ink supply for printer means which is detachable from a camera device forming said photograph.

5 7. An apparatus for printing in invisible ink encoded fault tolerant digital data on a photograph said apparatus including:

- a) a camera system for imaging an image including means for outputting said image in a digital format; said camera system further including means for inputting an image processing program;
- 10 b) means for processing said digital format of said image into a transformed version of said image in accordance with program steps of said image processing program;
- c) means for converting said digital format of said image and said image processing program into a fault tolerant encoded digital form;
- 15 d) means for printing on a surface said transformed version of said image and said fault tolerant encoded digital form of said image and said image processing program using an ink jet printing process, said fault tolerant encoded digital form being printed using an infra-red ink.

20 8. An apparatus for printing in invisible ink encoded fault tolerant digital data on a photograph as claimed in claim 7 wherein the invisible ink is an infra-red absorbing ink with little absorption in the visible spectrum.

25 9. An apparatus for printing in invisible ink encoded fault tolerant digital data on a photograph as claimed in claim 7 wherein said means for printing includes a page width print head using an ink jet structure with a print roll feeding print media therethrough.

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5 A method of printing digital data onto a photograph using infra-red ink and using an ink jet printing process is disclosed. The data can store the details of an image taken by a camera, which has been transformed by a proprietary image processing program, loaded separately into the camera, along with a copy of the program, the data being recorded in a fault tolerant form enabling the copying or recovery of the transformed photograph or of the original thereof notwithstanding damage thereto.

Figure 1

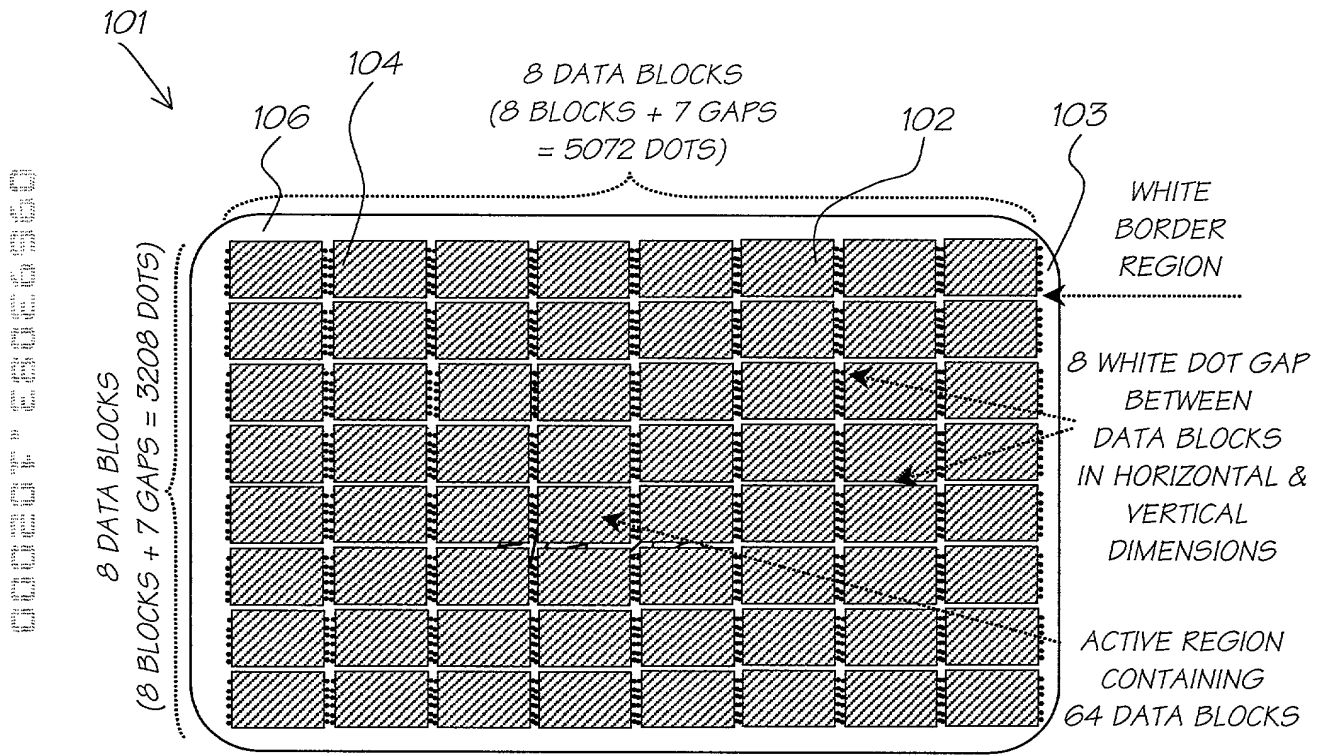


FIG. 1

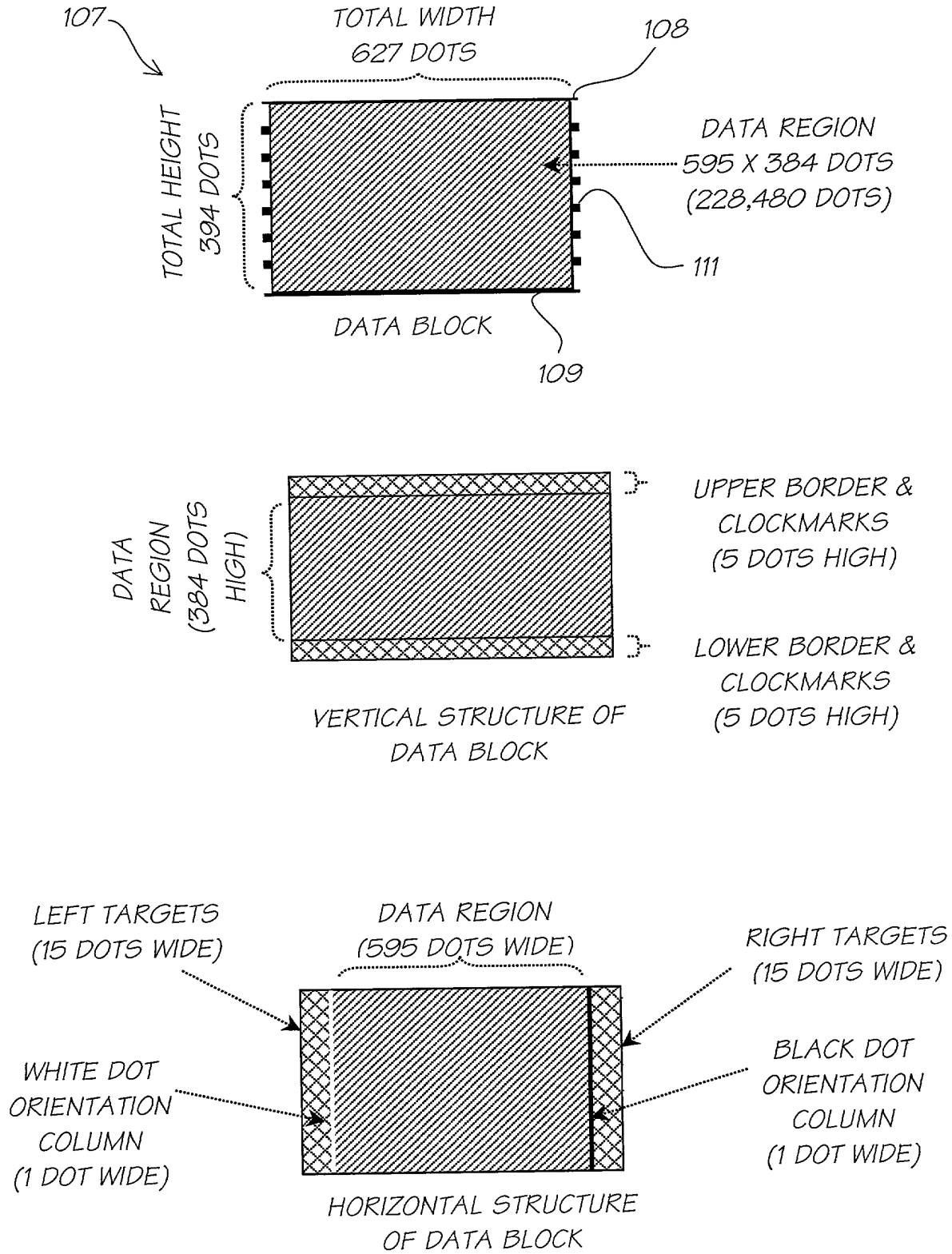


FIG. 2



FIG. 4

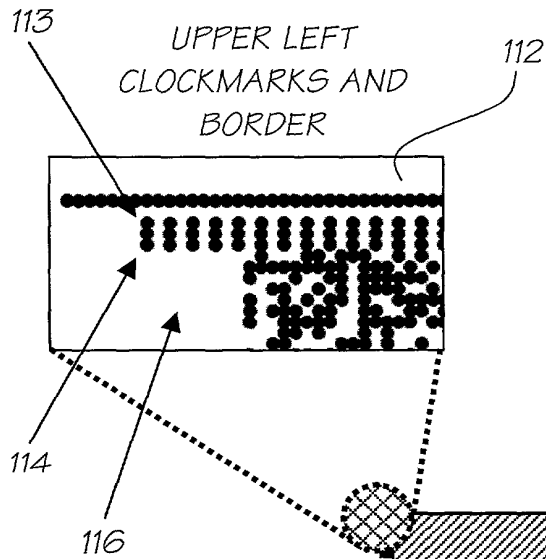


FIG. 5

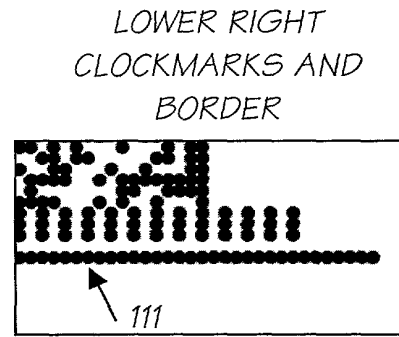


FIG. 3

2025-03-06 10:30:00

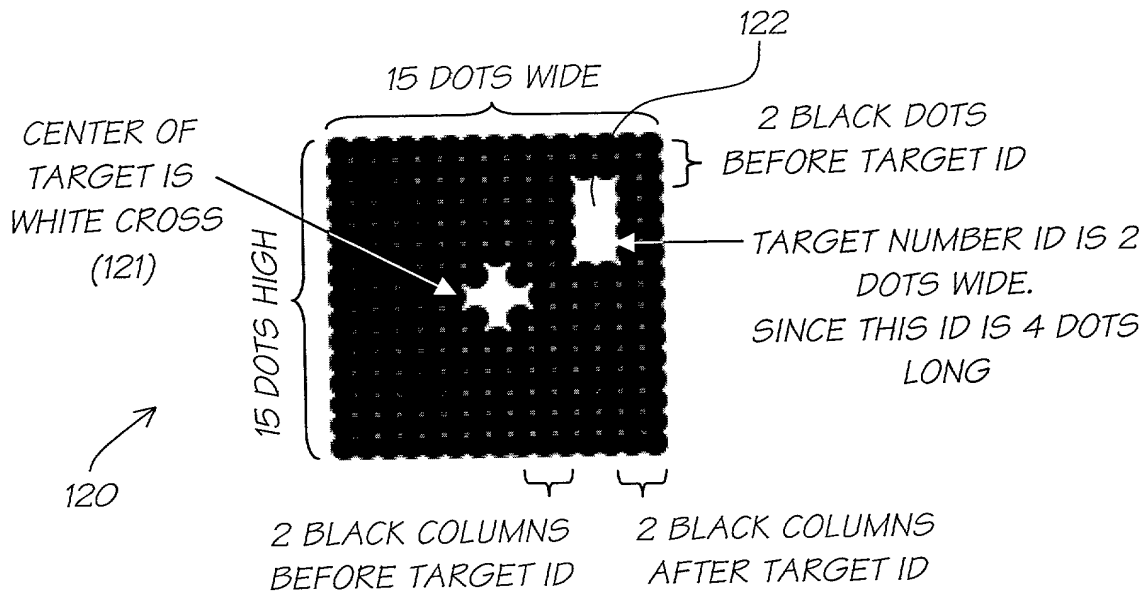


FIG. 6

6 LEFT TARGETS

6 RIGHT TARGETS

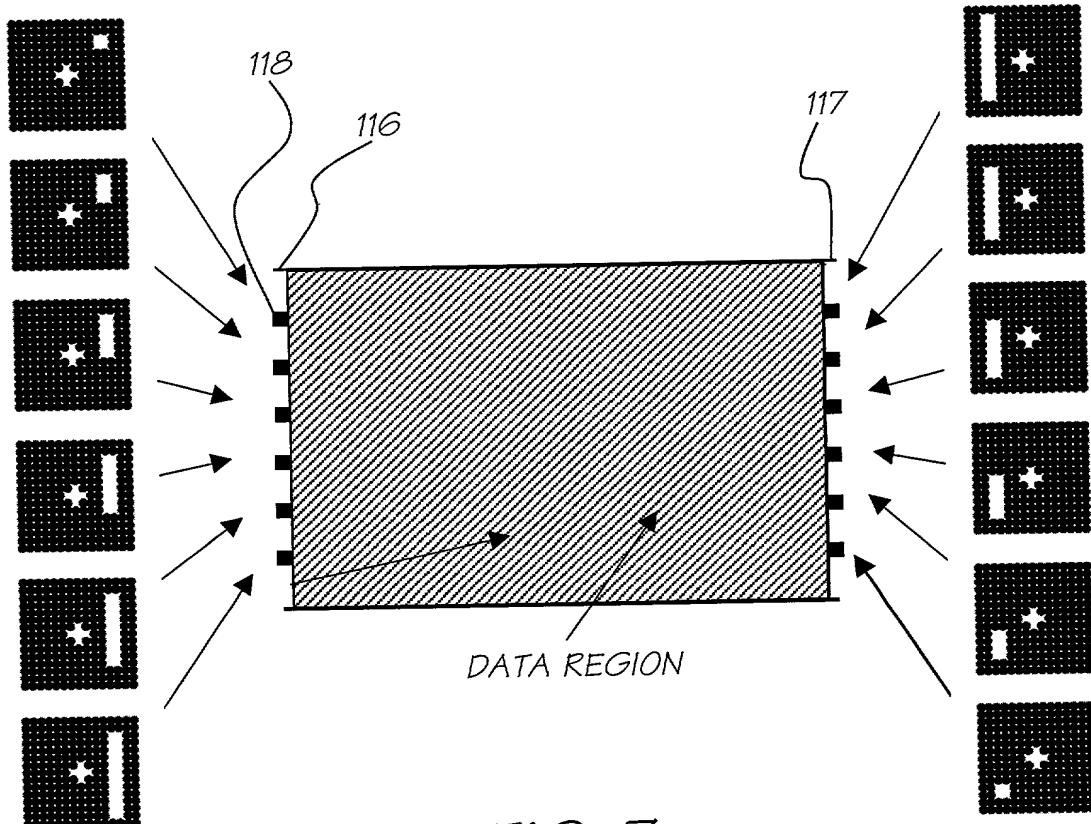


FIG. 7

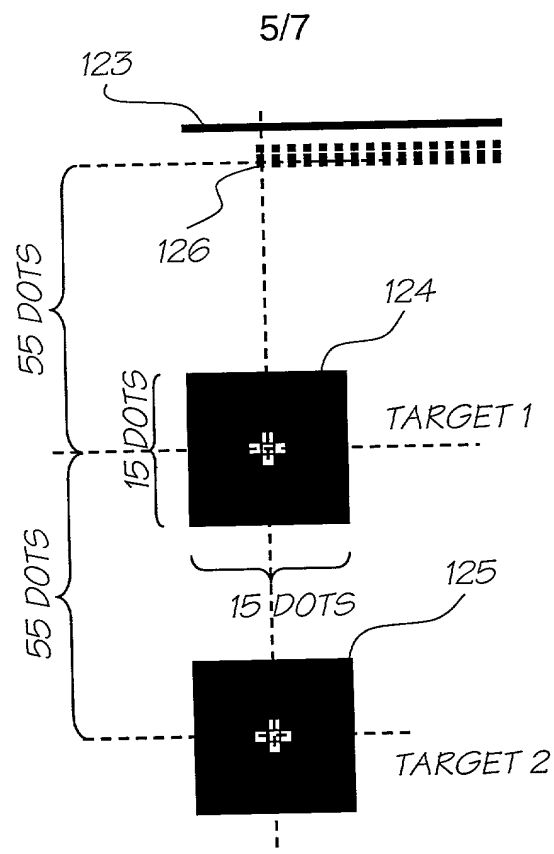


FIG. 8

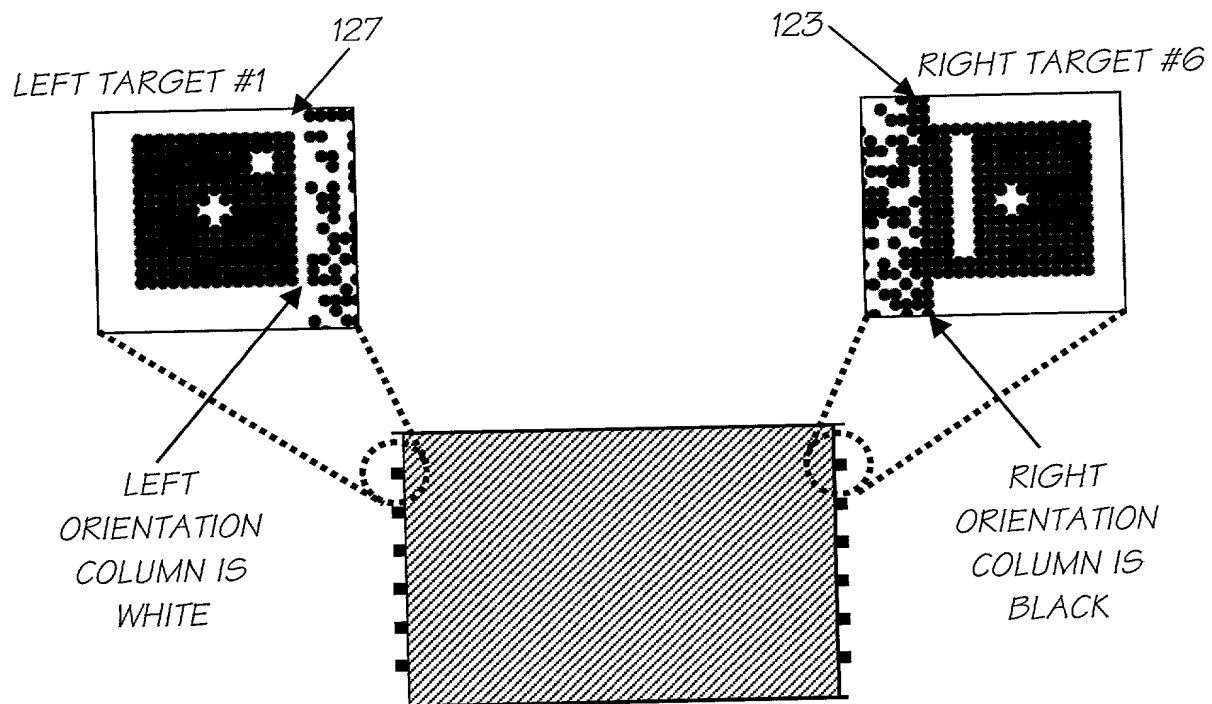


FIG. 9

6/7

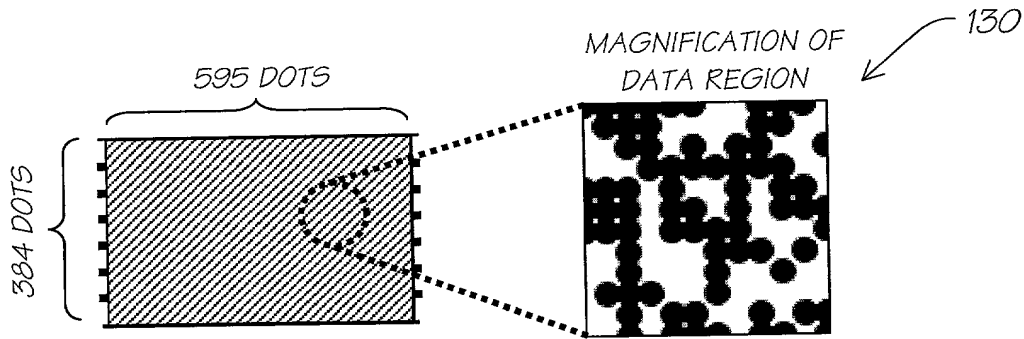


FIG. 10

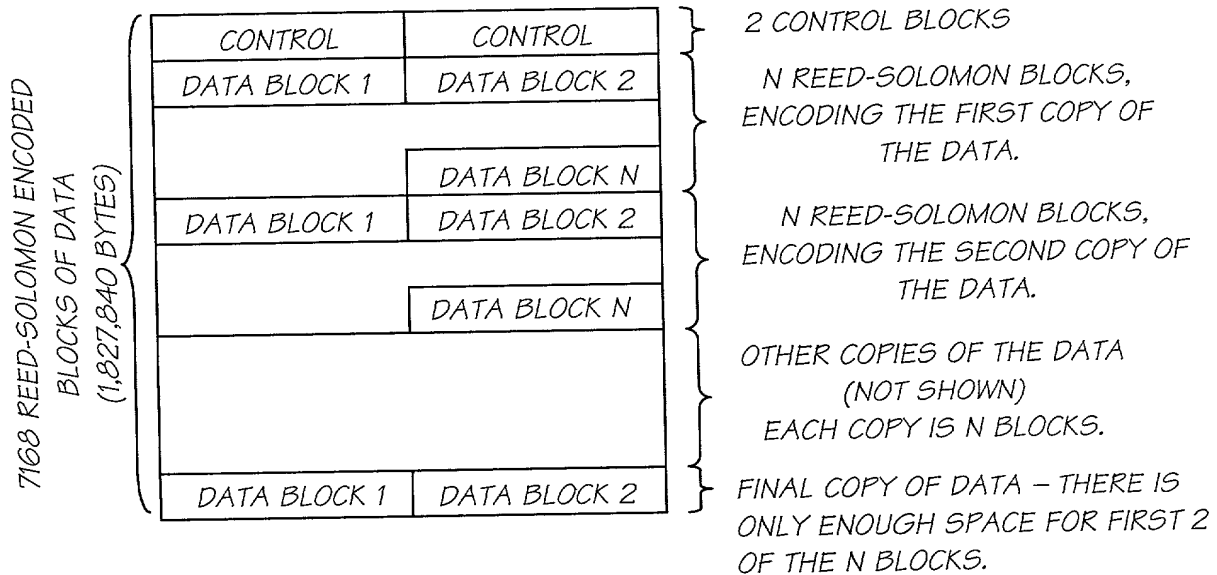


FIG. 11

00:	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D
0C:	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D
18:	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D
24:	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D
30:	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D
3C:	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D
48:	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D
54:	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D	4F	00	3D
60:	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
6C:	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
78:	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00

32 COPIES OF THE 3 BYTE CONTROL INFORMATION

RESERVED BYTES ARE 0

FIG. 12

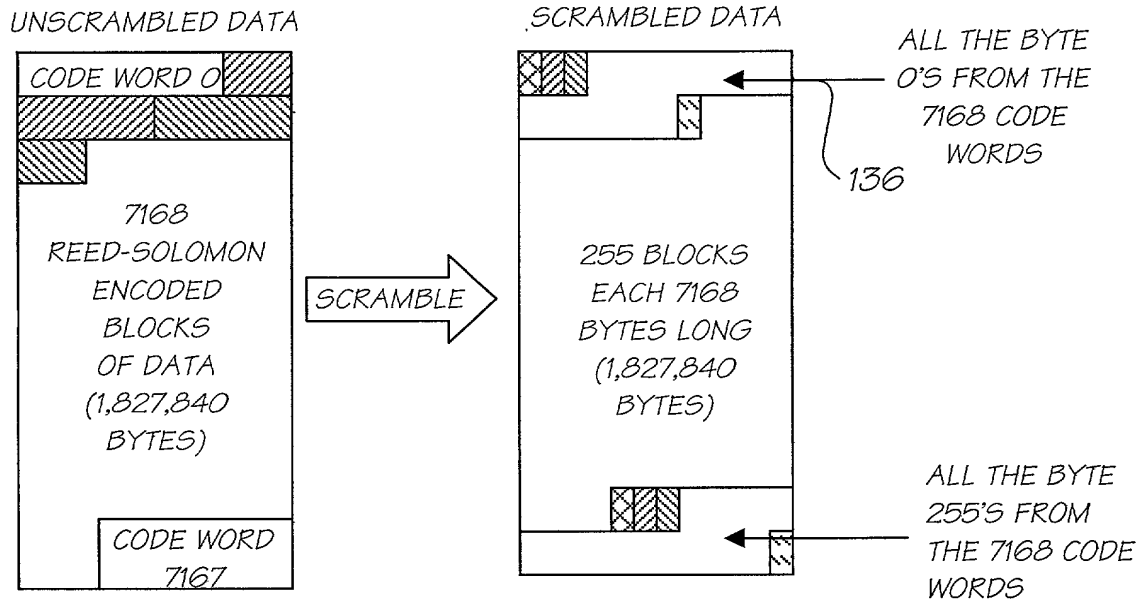


FIG. 13

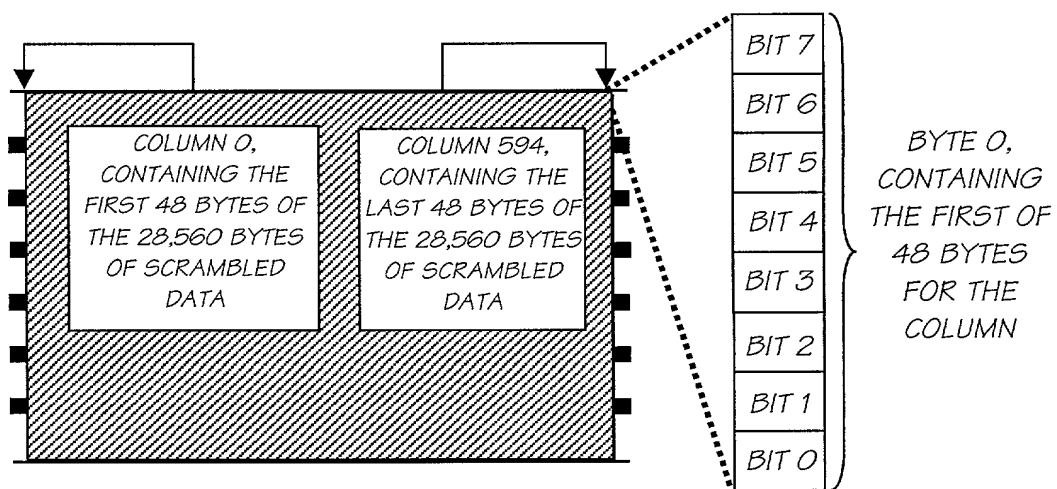


FIG. 14

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	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	KIA SILVERBROOK
	<b>COMPLETE IF KNOWN</b>	
	<b>Application Number</b>	/
	<b>Filing Date</b>	
	<b>Group Art Unit</b>	
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	

**As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:**

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled,

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FAULT TOLERANT DATA STORAGE ON PHOTOGRAPHS**

the specification of which (Title of the Invention)

☒ is attached hereto  
OR  
☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY)  as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number  and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY)  (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

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Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

[Page 1 of 2]

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U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)

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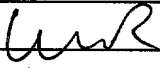
☐ Additional registered practitioner(s) named on supplemental Registered Practitioner Information sheet PTO/SB/02C attached hereto

Direct all correspondence to: ☒ Customer Number or Bar Code Label 24011 OR ☐ Correspondence address below

Name	Kia Silverbrook				
Address	Silverbrook Research Pty Ltd				
Address	393 Darling Street				
City	Balmain	State	NSW	ZIP	2041
Country	Australia	Telephone	61-2-9818-6633	Fax	61-2-9818-6711

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name of Sole or First Inventor: ☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

Given Name (first and middle (if any))		Family Name or Surname	
KIA		SILVERBROOK	
Inventor's Signature			Date
			Oct. 18, 2000
Residence: City	Balmain	State	NSW
		Country	Australia
Post Office Address	393 Darling Street		
Post Office Address			
City	Balmain	State	NSW
		ZIP	2041
		Country	Australia

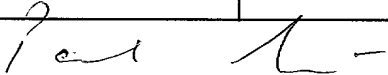
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**ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S)**  
**Supplemental Sheet**  
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<b>Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:</b>				<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor			
Given Name (first and middle [if any])				Family Name or Surname			
PAUL				LAPSTUN			
Inventor's Signature						Date	Oct. 18, 2000
Residence: City	Rodd Point	State	NSW	Country	Australia	Citizenship	Norwegian
Post Office Address							
13 Duke Avenue							
City	Rodd Point	State	NSW	ZIP	2046	Country	Australia
<b>Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:</b>				<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor			
Given Name (first and middle [if any])				Family Name or Surname			
SIMON ROBERT				WALMSLEY			
Inventor's Signature						Date	Oct. 18, 2000
Residence: City	Epping	State	NSW	Country	Australia	Citizenship	Australian
Post Office Address							
Unit 3, 9 Pembroke Street							
City	Epping	State	NSW	ZIP	2121	Country	Australia
<b>Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:</b>				<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor			
Given Name (first and middle [if any])				Family Name or Surname			
Inventor's Signature						Date	
Residence: City		State		Country		Citizenship	
Post Office Address							
City		State		ZIP		Country	

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.4 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

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